ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Mr. Ben Clark, Department Chair

ENGLISH COURSES

Courses Grades

English 9 - World Literature I 9

Honors English 9 - World Literature I 9

English 10 - World Literature II 10

Honors English 10 - World Literature II 10

English 11 - U.S. Literature 11

AP English Language and Composition 11

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ENGLISH ELECTIVES

Course Grades

AP English Language & Composition/Literary Magazine 10-12

Honors Literary Magazine 11-12

English Department Philosophy

The study of literature encourages students to examine the human condition in all its aspects, and to effectively respond to the world around them in thoughtful and articulate ways. ASFG provides a high quality language arts education which emphasizes cultural literacy, human values, creativity, and critical thinking and which empowers students as listeners, readers, writers, and speakers.

**English 9 - World Literature I Year Course**

*Prerequisite: Grade 8 English or entrance exam.*

This course examines ancient world literature and storytelling from the beginning of humanity through Shakespeare and the rise of the English language. Units include the Bible as literature, the oral tradition, Egyptian poetry, The Epic of Gilgamesh, *The* *Odyssey, Antigone*, *Siddhartha* and Buddhist literature, Ovid’s metamorphoses, *Beowulf,* Arthurian legends, Chaucer, *Romeo and Juliet*.  A major focus of the course is the development of oral language skills. Students study cross-curricular units planned in conjunction with the Early World History class.

**Honors English 9 - World Literature I Year Course**

*Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation, 90%+ in 8th Grade English, entrance exam, evaluative essay, summer packet, department head approval*

This course examines ancient world literature and storytelling from the beginning of humanity through Shakespeare and the rise of the English language. Units include the Bible as literature, the oral tradition, Egyptian poetry, The Epic of Gilgamesh, *The* *Odyssey,* Sophocles’ *Oedipus Cycle*, excerpts from Aristotle and Plato, especially the”Allegory of the Cave,” *Siddhartha* and Buddhist literature, Ovid’s metamorphoses, *Beowulf,* Arthurian legends and *The Once and Future King*, Chaucer, *Romeo and Juliet*.  Students also read a wide variety of short stories and poems, and write several major essays. Students study cross-curricular units planned in conjunction with their Early World History class.

**English 10 - World Literature II Year Course**

*Prerequisite: World Literature I*

This is a survey course of literature from around the world covering the following genres: the short story, poetry, the novel, essays, and drama. Materials are drawn from European, African, Asian, and English literature. Grammar, language use, and composition are taught throughout the year. Students are be able to expand skills of literary analysis, self-expression, language use, reading, writing, and communication, make connections between texts, and develop self-responsibility and self-directed education. Students study cross-curricular units planned in conjunction with their Modern World History class. Works may include *Great Expectations, Candide, The Tempest, Things Fall Apart, The Joy Luck Club, and The Lovely Bones.*

**Honors English 10 - World Literature II Year Course**

*Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation, 90%+ weighted average in World Literature I, summer packet, department head approval*

This is a survey course of British literature from Shakespeare to the 20th Century. However, students will also compare works of British Literature to literature from other regions of the world: Europe, Africa, and Asia. Grammar, language use, and composition are taught throughout the year. Students are be able to expand skills of literary analysis, self-expression, language use, reading, writing, and communication, make connections between texts, and develop self-responsibility and self-directed education. Students study cross-curricular units planned in conjunction with the Modern World History class. Works may include *Antigone, The Tempest or Hamlet, Gulliver’s Travels, A Tale of Two Cities, Pride and Prejudice, Mrs. Dalloway The Remains of the Day, The God of Small Things, The Rainbow, The French Lieutenant’s Woman, The Language of Literature: British Literature.*

**English 11 - U.S. Literature Year Course**

*Prerequisite: World Literature II.*

This is a survey course of American Literature for juniors. Selections from major American writers are presented in a chronological approach. Colonial writers are briefly examined, as are revolutionary documents. Selections are given from major 18th and 19th century writers such as Whitman, Emerson, Thoreau, Crane and London. Modern authors are briefly discussed. Twain's *Huckleberry Finn* and Hawthorne's *Scarlet Letter* are carefully studied in class. Students are required to read four other American novels on their own and write book reviews.

**English 12 - Critical Reading and College Writing Year Course**

*Prerequisite: U.S. Literature*

This course focuses on modern and contemporary fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. Students will learn to read critically and write effectively in a variety of genres. A major component of the course is the Senior Project which allows students to choose a topic, research it, and create a product based on their future academic, career, or personal goals. Texts may include: *Brave New World*, *The Life of Pi*, *Cat’s Eye*, *The Essay Connection*, *The Best American Short Stories of the 20th Century*, *Sound and Sense*, and *Heath Grammar and Mechanics*.

**AP English Language & Composition/Literary Magazine (Grades 10-12) Year Course**

*Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation, 90%+ weighted average in last English class, evaluative essay, reading level of 11th grade, genuine interest in creative writing, summer packet.*

This course has two major goals: the first is to prepare the students for the AP exam in Composition. To this end there are weekly writing assignments in poetry, essay, short story, and the forms and methods of discourse. The second goal is to prepare an issue of our literary magazine, *Sin Fronteras*, each semester. Thus, there are peer editing sessions, informal revision workshops, and a weekly editorial conference to plan and develop the magazine. The students are required to read widely from a variety of texts, handouts, and writing guides. They are required to write several essays of each of the modes of discourse, evaluate pieces of literature, and write reviews of modern works and critical reappraisals of the classics. Each student is expected to devote at least six hours a week outside of class on writing projects.

Note: Students who take this course in Grade 10 or Grade 12 must also take another English course. Students who take the course in Grade 11 may take this course as their required English course.

**A.P. English Language & Composition (Grade 11) Year Course**

*Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation, 90%+ weighted average in last English class, department head approval, summer packet.*

This course is an intensive study of writing, particularly non-fiction prose. It engages students in becoming skillful readers of prose written in a variety of periods, disciplines, and rhetorical contexts, and in becoming skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes. Both the reading and the writing should make students aware of the interactions among a writer’s purpose, audience expectations, and subjects as well as the way generic conventions and the resources of language contribute to the effectiveness of writing. A focus of the course is American Literature. The course will prepare students to take the AP English Language and Composition exam.

**Honors Literary Magazine (Grade 11-12) Year Course**

*Prerequisite: Successful completion of AP Language/Literary Magazine and a passing score on the AP Language Exam, Teacher recommendation, 90%+ weighted average in last English class, evaluative essay, genuine interest in creative writing, department head approval.*

Students taking this course are editors of Sin Fronteras, the High School Literary Magazine. They serve as mentors to younger writers, and encourage them to polish several creative pieces throughout the year. They are responsible for selection, editing, proofreading, design and layout, and production of two issues of the magazine per year. A major part of the evaluation is their creative writing portfolio. They will also serve as resource people for students preparing for the AP Language exam.

**AP Literature and Composition (Grade 12)**

*Prerequisite*: *Teacher recommendation, 90%+ weighted average in last English class, department head approval, summer packet.*

The primary goal of the Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition course is to develop students’ abilities as readers and writers (especially as critics of literature) by giving college-level instruction according to the curricular requirements described in the *AP Course Description*. Students who successfully complete the AP examination may qualify for up to one year of credit in English at the college of their choice.  AP English is both demanding and intellectually stimulating.  It requires the best effort a student has on a consistent basis.  AP English emphasizes the students’ developing independence of thought and mature habits of critical thinking.  The works included are drawn from American, British, and comparative literature and range from The Anglo-Saxons to the present. Classroom discussion and active participation are vital means of testing the ideas of the students.  Writing assignments, particularly timed in-class essays, will be an important and frequent feature of the course.  If students are committed to the work as well as to listening and learning from each other, this class will ultimately become a community of learners in which we are all teachers and all students.Students will be able to:   develop accurate, perceptive reading through close study of major texts representing various literary genres; acquire a fluent, precise writing style through the preparation of essays about the texts; understand the techniques of poetry and prose as they affect and enhance meaning in a poem, work of fiction or non-fiction; and generate independent, thoughtful, and analytic discourse during class discussion.